

### **REMARKS; ELECTION OF SPECIES**

In the subject Office Action the Examiner has determined that there are multiple different species of the nutrient/protectant component of the claimed composition. Applicants are required to elect and designate one species of such nutrient/protectant component for initial examination..

The Examiner has acknowledged that at least Claims 1, 7, 15 and 21 are generic.

In response, Applicants hereby elect for examination and prosecution "antimicrobial or antifungal agents" identified as a single species of "nutrient/protectant component" with an example thereof in paragraph 0028 of the Specification. Applicants do not assert the right to traverse the election requirement.

As the nutrient/protectant component encompassing the elected "antimicrobial or antifungal agents" is a critical element of the composition and all Claims 1-36 are directed to the composition directly or the method of its use, all Claims 1-36 also necessarily encompass the elected "antimicrobial or antifungal agents" species of the component. The "antimicrobial or antifungal agent" species itself is described in Claims 8-9 and 22.

Claims to the non-elected species of nutrient/protectant are all reserved and are to be included with any allowed claims should at least one of the generic claims be held to be allowable.

### **FEES**

It is not believed that any fees are due with respect to the election of species herein. However, should any such fees be due, the Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge all such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1990.

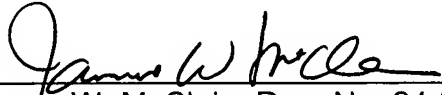
### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, the requirement for election of species is submitted to have been fully responded to. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to proceed forward with examination and prosecution of this application.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of any issues, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below, is cordially invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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